

"Cherry Grove"
Eastville Vicinity
Northampton County, Virginia

HABS No.
Va-592

HABS
VA
66-EAST.V,
4-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Washington Office, Division of Design and Construction
Washington 25, D. C.

"Cherry Grove"
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"Cherry Grove"

Location: Savage Neck, Eastville Vicinity, Northampton County,
Virginia.

Present Owners: Wescoat Heirs

Present Status: Unoccupied

Brief Statement This early frame and clapboard house with gambrel
of Significance: roof, architecturally has more in common with the
Western, than the Eastern Shore.

Historical Notes: Local historians believe that the point created
by Chesapeake Bay and Cherrystone Inlet may have been the site of
the home of first settler Ensign Thomas Savage. Savage was probably
the earliest permanent settler in any of the original colonies whose
descendants are definitely known. Captain John Smith recorded his
arrival in 1608 and his adoption by Powhatan. He lived a number of
years with the Indians and grew up with Pocahontas. He became pro-
ficient in the Indian languages and his services as interpreter were
invaluable both to the Shore and the Jamestown settlement.

"Cherry Grove" is an old house and could go back to Thomas
Savage III who died in 1737 or to the early tenure of Nathaniel
Littleton Savage his son. Nathaniel Littleton Savage was a promi-
nent citizen of the county in the latter half of the eighteenth century.

Architectural Notes: "Cherry Grove" is a substantial farm house, one and a half stories with gambrel roof and well-scaled modillion cornice. The West Indian mode of using louvered shutters on dormers is worth noting. The roof now covered with slate, originally had wood shingles. There is a center hall plan with entrance doors of rare type, paneled on the outside and diagonally battened within. Inside brick chimneys rise from either end. Extensions to the left and the front porch would seem to date from the late nineteenth century.

The interior of the main block preserves much of its original appearance. The hall has paneled wainscoting and an enclosed stairway. The parlor and bedroom above have fully paneled ends. In the former there are also horizontal panels over each window. Paint evidence around the fireplace opening as well as mantel facings in the Parlor tell the story of at least two differing treatments there. Considerable wrought-iron hardware remains throughout the house.

"Cherry Grove" is reported to have been abandoned following a severe hurricane in the 1930's. The late Ralph T. Whitelaw's authoritative work on the Eastern Shore (Vol. I, p. 224) reproduces a photograph when it was still inhabited and showing a close-up of landscape treatment in the vicinity. The present prospect is one of open fields and water courses, a magnificent Tidewater setting, but devoid of old trees and shrubbery.

Reference: Ralph T. Whitelaw, Virginia's Eastern Shore, Richmond,

VA.
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Virginia, Virginia Historical Society, 1951, Volume One, pp. 214-15,
222-25.

Prepared by: Worth Bailey, HABS National Park Service, June, 1960.

Approved: _____

Robert E. Smith
Acting Chief Architect

Date

1-17-61